

TENNESSEE

TENNESSEE — Partly cloudy, probably local thundershowers in east portion tonight and Saturday; not much change in temperature.

NASHVILLE AND VICINITY—Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday; not much change in temperature.

Nashville



Banner.

NEARBY STATES

KENTUCKY — Partly cloudy, probably local thundershowers in east portion tonight and Saturday; not much change in temperature.

ALABAMA — Probable showers tonight and Saturday; gentle to moderate variable winds on the coast, mostly southeasterly.

Full Leased Wire Reports of the Associated Press, United Press, and International News Service—(The Only Nashville Newspaper With More Than One Press Service.)

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NASHVILLE, TENN., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 16, 1935

EIGHTEEN PAGES

DAILY 3c—SUNDAY 5c

Bodies of Rogers and Post May Be Brought Home by Lindbergh

Famous Pair Killed as Plane Fails In Takeoff Deep in Alaskan Wilds; Accident Occurs Near Point Barrow

The Nation's Greatest Humorist Was Never in Too Great a Hurry To Chat With People and Reporters



Everybody loved the great Will Rogers. Here (top) he is shown surrounded by an admiring crowd at Sky Harbor on his last visit here in February. Standing with him is Donald Douglas, noted airplane designer. Around them are Rogers' admirers from Nashville and surrounding towns. Men, women and children, they always gathered when they heard he was coming through on the American Airlines. Below, left: The famous humorist is interviewed by Brown Turner, BANNER reporter. It was at this time that Rogers decided to give Columbia more national publicity by writing a column on the city's mule market. Right: A characteristic pose of the beloved American character. He is leaving a plane at Sky Harbor.

Banner Reporter Tells Of Last Interview With Will Rogers

By BROWN TURNER

For probably the first time in my newspaper experience I was excited this morning when I walked into the office and was told of the tragic death of Will Rogers.

I was the last man in Nashville to interview him when one cold afternoon in February he stepped off an American Airlines plane at Sky Harbor to be greeted by a hundred or more admirers.

His features have been running in THE BANNER for the last ten years, and thousands of readers looked for his daily squibs before turning to the news of the day. They loved him. He loved them.

Will Rogers was the easiest man to talk to I ever saw.

When we walked into the airline office I told him I was a newspaper man and wanted an interview with him. He placed his right hand on my shoulder and said: "Why, son, you don't think I know anything, do you?"

That was his way of doing. He was at home with Presidents and Kings and was never too big or in too much of a hurry to stop and

Will Rogers' Great Humor Was Surpassed Only by Generosity

Most people knew Will Rogers as a funmaker.

But few knew him as the most human, the most kindly man and one of the most generous men America ever produced.

He was genuine. He said what he thought and said it in a way so as not to offend. People believed in him. He believed in people and was always ready to lend a helping hand to any worthy cause.

Last April 17, James G. Stahlman, publisher of THE BANNER, telegraphed Mr. Rogers seeking his aid for Al Menah Shrine in raising funds with which to send the uniformed units to Washington. He asked Mr. Rogers to stop off in Nashville for a performance at Ryman Auditorium.

He was asked what the cost would be, and in his reply actually scoffed at the idea of charging the Shrine for his appearance in Nashville, and declined with sincerest regrets. He was busy on a picture and it was impossible for him to grant the request.

The telegram to Mr. Rogers and his reply follow:

"Will Rogers, "Beverly Hills, Calif., "My dear Will: I have just been talking to Charlie McAdams on the phone about the likely time of your next visit East. He suggested that I wire you direct. The situation is this, Al

Menah Temple of the Shrine is endeavoring to raise enough money to complete a fund to take the uniform units of the Temple to the Imperial Council in Washington in June. We would like to bring you to Nashville for a performance at the Ryman Auditorium some time during May, in order to help you run up your income tax, as well as fill the coffers of Al Menah Temple. If you plan to be in the East between now and June, will it be possible for you to make such an engagement, and if so, at what price?"

"Sincerely trust you can stop off here for the engagement. Kindest regards.

"JIM STAHLMAN."

Here's the answer:

"Jim Stahlman, "Some Newspaper, "Nashville, Tenn.

"Working to finish one picture. Start immediately on next one. Won't finish till middle of summer. What do you mean speaking of a cost for my services. No stage appearance in any town for any cause in last seven years has there been any charge. That's not for publicity, however. Wish I could do it for you, but I won't be East. Regards.

"WILL."

A great heart had Will Rogers.

On Aerial Vacation

Fatal Mishap Occurred Last Night, as Motor Failed—Wreckage Tells Finders Grim Story

Army Man Notifies World

Washington, Aug. 16—(UP)—Col. Charles A. Lindbergh may fly on a tragic mission to Alaska to supervise return of the bodies of Will Rogers and Wiley Post, killed in an airplane crash, advices today indicated.

While the capital mourned the deaths of the famous actor and the equally famous aviator, advices to Assistant Secretary of Treasury Stephen B. Gibbons indicated that a telephone conversation this afternoon would decide whether America's premier flier would undertake the mission.

Gibbons planned to talk to Lindbergh, now at North-haven, Me., by telephone. It was believed he might decide whether Lindbergh would fly the bodies back or whether they would be returned by the coast guard cutter Northland, as had been previously suggested.

Coast guard officials reached a sister of Mrs. Rogers at Skowhegan, Me., this morning, who told them that Mrs. Rogers was prostrated and grief stricken.

The sister told officials that Mrs. Rogers would be happy to have Lindbergh take charge of returning the body.

At the same time, the coast guard said Pan-American Airways had offered its facilities in the return of the bodies.

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Seattle, Aug. 16—Death ended the aerial vacation of Will Rogers, famed actor-humorist, and Wiley Post, noted round-the-world flier, when Post's plane crashed fifteen miles south of Barrow in Arctic Alaska last night.

Hyde Park, N. Y., Aug. 16—(AP)—President Roosevelt expressed the shock of the nation today upon learning of the death of Will Rogers and Wiley Post who he said were "outstanding Americans and will be greatly missed."

Mr. Roosevelt was informed of the death of the two distinguished men shortly after his arrival here today from the White House for a brief visit home.

He made the statement:

"I was shocked to hear of the tragedy which has taken Will Rogers and Wiley Post from us. Will was an old friend of mine, a humorist and philosopher beloved by all. I had the pleasure of greeting Mr. Post on his return from his round-the-world flight. He leaves behind a splendid contribution to the science of aviation. Both were outstanding Americans and will be greatly missed."

Word of the tragedy was received here today by the United States Signal Corps from Sergt. Stanley R. Morgan, operator at Barrow.

Sergeant Morgan said the accident occurred at 5 p. m., Alaska time (11 p. m. E.S.T.) last night.

"Post and Rogers crashed fifteen miles south of here at 5 o'clock last night," Morgan reported to the signal corps.

"Have recovered bodies and placed them in care Dr. Greist. Standing by on Anchorage hourly."

No details of the crash were received in first reports. Post and Rogers left Fairbanks, in the interior of Alaska, yesterday in their pontoon-equipped monoplane,

(Continued on Page 10, Column 3)

Registration of 30,000 Indicated In Davidson County

A registration of close to 30,000 for Davidson County was forecast this morning by W. M. Carr, chairman of the County Board of Election Commissioners, as the biennial registration period entered its last day.

Mr. Carr said that heavy registration yesterday and this morning would probably push the total figure above the 27,000 of two years ago. Booths are open in all wards, districts, and precincts until 8 o'clock tonight. Voters must register at this time to cast their ballots in the Democratic primary October 10.

Sister in Collapse Over Rogers' Death

Chelsea, Okla., Aug. 16—(UP)—Mrs. Tom McSpadden, seventy-year-old sister of Will Rogers, collapsed today when informed that her brother had been killed with Wiley Post in an Alaskan airplane crash.

Her condition was described as serious.

Park Movies—Friday night at McFerrin and Reservoir parks. Shows start at dark.

Alabama Legislature Deplores Air Crash

Montgomery, Ala., Aug. 16—(P)—The Alabama Legislature today adopted a resolution extending its sympathy to the families of Will Rogers and Wiley Post who were killed today as their plane crashed in Alaska.

The resolution, introduced by Representative Connor of Jefferson was adopted by a standing vote.

Banner Gives Nashville First News of Tragedy

THE BANNER gave Nashville the sad news of the death of Will Rogers and Wiley Post more than an hour ahead of the opposition today.

The Associated Press flashed the news at 8:48 a. m. A few minutes later THE BANNER extra hit the street.

Word of the tragedy spread like wildfire. It is estimated from a partial check that THE BANNER received more than 400 telephone calls within an hour after the story broke.

Will Rogers' Last Dispatch Filed Before Leaving Fairbanks

By WILL ROGERS

Fairbanks, Alaska, Aug. 15—(Special)—Visited our new emigrants. Now this is not the time to discuss whether it will succeed or whether it won't; whether it's a farming country or whether it is not, and to enumerate the hundreds of mistakes and confusions and rows and arguments and management in the whole thing at home and here. As I see it there is only one problem now that they are here, and that's to get 'em housed within six or eight weeks. Things have been a terrible mess. They are getting 'em straightened out, but even now not fast enough. There is about 700 or 800 of 'em.



WILL ROGERS

About 200 went back. So did about that many workmen sent from the transient camps down home. Just lately they are using about 150 Alaskan workmen, paid regular wages, but it's just a few weeks to snow now and they have to be out of the tents. Both workmen and settlers say there is plenty of food and always has been and will be. They can always get that, but it's houses they need right now, and Colonel Hunt, in charge realizes it. You know after all, there is a lot of difference in pioneering for gold and pioneering for spinach.

A Friend to Humanity Gone

The tragic death of Will Rogers in an airplane accident in Alaska shocks all America. The best wishes of his countrymen for a safe and pleasant journey had accompanied him as he started on his far-stretching travels in the air.

He had lived close to the hearts of many millions, and he will be enshrined in their memories. His was a great soul, attuned to the lives and needs, the sympathies and aspirations, the emotions and inner sensibilities of his fellow-man. He had seen much of life and knew both its lights and shadows.

He was a great humorist—the foremost of his times—but he was more than that; he was a great philosopher, not in the abstractions of mental speculation, but in his knowledge of the deep currents, the heart-fountains of humanity's strength and weakness, its hopes and fears, its achievements and disappointments.

His insight into human nature amounted to genius; his mental faculties were so alert and his mental vision so clear that his ideas and utterances displayed a spontaneousness that made instant and universal appeal.

He loved truth and hated shams.

He brightened the homes of countless mil-

lions with his inimitable flashes of wit and humor. His satire might be broad at times, but even that gilded with kindness. His irony might be subtle, but never bitter.

His heart went out to humanity, and humanity's heart went out to him.

His charities were spontaneous and numberless.

He earned millions, and his companions were among the richest and most powerful of the earth; but he knew no touch of ostentation, and his sympathies were ever close to the lives of the plain people.

He was a great man and a great genius in the full sense of the words.

Other continents besides that of America had heard his voice, and knew somewhat of his marvelous, matchless gifts.

THE BANNER had come to regard him as a member, admired and loved, of its own family, for he had been a daily and Sunday contributor for ten years. His tragic passage brings a sense of personal bereavement to members of its official household, who had come within the radius of personal contact and treasured friendship. The shock that America knows the BANNER family and its readers are fully experiencing.